

Lesson II

There may be but two words in a sentence; the name of the thing spoken of, & what is said about the subject.

John writes.

Birds sing.

Mary sews.

We speak of John; we say about him, that he writes.

We speak of birds; we say, they sing.

We speak of Mary; we say, she sews.

These words, writer, sing, sews, come out of one of the eight groups into which words are divided. The words in that group are the chief words of all; for this reason, we cannot make complete sense, ~~cannot put into words a complete thought~~, and, therefore, cannot make a sentence, without using one of them.

They are called Verbs, which means words; because they are the chief words of all.

Every subject must have a verb; and the verb serves the subject in three ways: -

(1) Alice writes.

The cat meows.

He called.

In these examples, the verb states what the Subject does.

~~the~~ You

The subject is the name of the person or thing which does the action.

The verb is the word which expresses the action.

There are many verbs; a verb to express almost every possible action. We may say:

He falls, skips, runs, trots, throws, pulls, squeezes, whistles, cries, laughs, peeps, smiles, carries, etc.

Or, It rains, snows, blows, thunders, freezes, etc.

Or, The plant grows, thrives, blossoms, droops, withers, dies.

(2) But the Verb does not always state what the subject does:

The carpet is brushed every day.

That cow is milked in the afternoon.

Tom is washed twenty times a day.

The carpet is the subject, but the carpet does not brush; the action of brushing is done to the subject.

That cow is the subject, but the cow does not milk; the action of milking is done to the subject.

Tom is the subject, but Tom is not big enough to wash himself; the action of washing is done to the subject.

These verbs, ^{which have in them} also, express action, but the action is done to the subject.

Many different actions may be done to a single subject. Take Baby. On the subject, we may say:-

Baby is washed, is dressed, is uncressed, is fed, is rocked, is carried, is dandled, etc.

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- Flower-bed
Mr. the ~~garden~~ is weeded, is raked, is planted
is dug, is hoed.
- Mr. Marji pinapore is washed, is starched, is dried,
is ironed, is torn, is cleaned, is trimmed.
- or, Henry is praised, is rewarded, is punished,
is blamed, is hurt, is whipped, was struck.

(3.) That boy is a scholar.

Flowers are beautiful.

Children are merry.

We are seven.

The verbs in these sentences do not express action: they do not ~~show~~ ^{state} what the subject does, or, is done to: they state what the subject is.

A scholar' describes, or tells, something about that boy; and the verb is joins the two words together, & makes the statement about the boy, ~~declares~~ ^{that}, that boy is a scholar.

Are joins the subject 'flowers,' to the word 'beautiful,' & makes a statement, or declares something, about flowers. Flowers are beautiful.
Are joins 'children' to 'merry,' the word which describes them; so we have a statement about children.

The subject, 'we,' is joined to the describing word 'seven,' by the verb are: thus we get a statement about 'we'.

Leave the verbs, is, are, are, are, out of these four sentences, and they are no longer statements.

Statements, or sentences at all. The boy a Scholar does not make sense, or a sentence: we want the verb to show what the subject is.
~~The verb may show that the verb is omitted.~~
 He may declare, or state, many things about the same subject:-

Frank is funny, is gay, is noisy, is wild,
is clever, is an idle boy, is eight years old.

Mary was our maid, will be twenty in June,
is tidy, is cross, is careless, is good-natured.

Girls are quiet, are timid, are sometimes querulous.
 That rose-bush is tall, is lovely, is green.

In each of these sentences, the verb joins the describing words to the subject, & so makes a statement, or sentence.

These describing words never express action.

To be learnt - (large type) -

Verbs state what the subject does.
 Dogs bark.

Verbs state what is done to the subject. Henry was whipped.

Verbs state what the subject is.

Charley is a little boy.

Exercises

- Underline the Verb which states what the subject does in each of the following sentences:-

The king took the child. He put it into a box.
He

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He rolled away. He came to a deep stream. He threw it into the current. The boat, however, floated down the stream. Some kind spirit watched over it. No water reached the child. The boat stopped at the dam of a mill. The miller soon saw it. He took a long pole. He drew it towards the shore. He thought there was gold inside. He opened it. He found a pretty little boy. The child smiled upon him merrily. The miller & his wife had no children. They treated the baby very kindly. They brought it up carefully. Every one admired it. Every one loved it.

(2) Put a verb which states what the subject does into each of the following sentences:-

About thirteen years — over their heads. The king — by accident to the mill. He — the miller is that was his son. He — "No." I — him when a babe in a boat in the mill-dam." The king — "how long ago?" The miller — "some thirteen years." The king — "he is a fine fellow." If you — him to carry a letter to the queen. It — me very much. I — him two pieces of gold for his trouble." The miller — "As your Majesty —." Now the king — "that this was the child. ~~He had tried~~ to drown. He — a letter by him to the queen. "As soon as the bearer of this —, A man — him." The young man — out with this letter. He — his way. He — to a dark wood. He — a light at a distance. He — his course towards it. He — It — from a little cottage.

3. What does each verb ~~underlined~~^{in the following sentences} state about the subject?

She was turned into an ass. They were married & lived happy ever after.
Their pretty lips ~~were~~ were besmeared with blackberries. His barns were girded.
His goods were consumed. He was brought to want & misery. Star-like primroses are seen. The shot was made for you.
It will be turned into a tiger. The job was finished at last. All the things were laid on the table.

4. Underline the verbs in the following sentences. What do they state about the subjects of the sentences?

He was changed into a fairy. You was whipped to make him a better boy. He was saved all the trouble. The work was finished ready to his hand. The sewing was done by daybreak. The coat was cut out. Chanticleer was left alone with his dead Parrot. Six mice were harnessed to the little horse. Parrot was choked by a great nut. The guns were planted. The palace was fired upon from all sides. The shot palace was burnt to the ground. Every corner was searched.

5. What does each verb in the following sentences state about the subject?

My shape is most elegant. You are perfectly handsome. My coat is quite horridly & plain. Nobody ever is angry with me. I am a useful & innocent bee.

bet. The sheets are fine and thin. You are witty. You are wise. Her coat is so warm. I am gentle & good.

Every little stream is bright.
All the orchard trees are white.

I was once a mother's pride.

6. Put a verb which states what the subject is into each of the following sentences:-

I - so thirsty. The cottage - quite empty.
The wizard king - at home. The tree that bore the golden apples - ~~was~~^{is} ~~old~~^{young}. The city fountain - dry. Those - three puzzling questions. The king ~~was~~ very wrath. You ~~are~~ just the man we want. Somebody at the door. The spring - very deep. As for he - too old to work. This king - very fond of money. If you - thirsty, sit down yourself. ~~They~~ Tot and Dot - - too young last Christmas to walk alone.

7. Put the verb in each of the following sentence into its right place in this table:-

What the Subject -

	<u>does</u>	<u>is done to.</u>	<u>is.</u>	
He	<u>tooth</u>			to other word
She		<u>was forced</u>		to give up her horse
The muller			<u>was</u>	was expound of her

You are old, gather willows." He told her - He had been enchanted by a malicious fairy - The fairy had changed him into a frog - A young princess went into a wood - She sat down by a cool spring - She had a golden ball in her hand - She tossed it into the air - The ball bounded away - It fell into the spring - A frog put its head out of the water - It asked her - Why she wept - She said - My golden ball has fallen into the spring - The frog said - If you will love me - If you will let me live with you - If you will let me eat from your golden I will get the ball - She promised - The frog dived for the ball - Something knocked gently at the door next day - The princess was frightened - It was the frog - He wanted to come in - He said - I am tired - Carry me up stairs - Put me into your little bed - When it was light - He jumped up - He hopped down stairs - He went out of the house - The princess thought - He is gone - I shall be troubled with him no more - She was mistaken - The frog came at next night - He slept upon his pillow - She was astonished next morning - A handsome prince stood by